

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 786

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA EDITOR'S REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY

REF: STATE 150451

1. EMBASSY FILES CARRY KOLESNICHENKO AS 44-YEAR-OLD EDITORIAL WRITER OF PRAVDA, WHICH HE JOINED IN 1960.

HIS EXPERIENCE INCLUDES WORK ON MONTHLY JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND A REPORTED STINT AS PRAVDA'S AFRICA CORRESPONDENT IN THE EARLY 60'S.

EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO KNOW KOLESNICHENKO NOTE THAT HE IS TREATED WITH DEFERENCE BY HIS JOURNALISTIC COLLEAGUES. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

2. KOLESNICHENKO IS A FREQUENT COMMENTATOR IN PRAVDA AND OFTEN CONTRIBUTES TO ITS SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS REVIEW. WE HAVE NOT FOUND HIS WRITING OVERLY CONTENTIOUS, ALTHOUGH LIKE OTHER PRAVDA COMMENTATORS HE OCCASIONALLY NEEDLES THE U.S. FOUR WEEKS AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, HE WROTE THAT THE ARABS WERE RIGHT TO SEE THE U.S. AS AN ACCOMPLICE OF ISRAELI AGGRESSORS. SAME COMMENTARY, HOWEVER, CONTAINED WARM EVALUATION OF APPROACHING SUMMIT, QUOTED BOTH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY FAVORABLY ON U.S.-SOVIET

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RELATIONS, AND EXPRESSED NECESSITY OF CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL TIES.

3. KOLESNICHENKO IS AN IMPORTANT SOVIET JOURNALIST,
AND WE WOULD FAVOR A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION THAT SECRETARY GIVE
HIM AND STRELNIKOV
AN INTERVIEW. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FURTHER
DETAILS ON REQUESTED INTERVIEW WHEN AVAILABLE, AS WE
HOPE TO MAKE IT THE BASIS FOR A RECIPROCAL REQUEST
BY LOCAL U.S. JOURNALISTS FOR GROMYKO INTERVIEW. STOESSEL

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